to US $ 25 mio. when the third branch is opened. Foreign banks operating in India are also required to maintain capital funds in India an amount equivalent to 8% of the risk weighted assets of India operations.

As regards representative office it may be mentioned that it cannot undertake any banking business or any commercial activity. Representative offices can undertake activities such as correspondent banking, loan syndication or risk management for companies engaged in raising money overseas and international trade finance such as buyers/suppliers' credit to the Indian importers. Approval for opening a representative office in India if granted will be subject to the condition that the presence in India as representative office would not in any way confer any right or privilege on it for setting up a branch later and that all expenses of the representative office will have to be met by inward remittances from bank's head office.

The request for opening of branch/ representative office has to be made to the Reserve Bank of India in the prescribed proforma form.

Shortage of Notary Stamp

*137. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of notary stamps in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The India Security Press, Nashik has increased the supply of notary stamps to Delhi and as per information received from the Delhi Govt., there is no shortage of these stamps now in Delhi.

(c) Action is being taken to replace the old machines of ISP by new machines in phased manner, so as to increase the production capacity.

Flash strike by Ship Crew at Chennai

*138. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in September, 1998, ships were stranded at Chennai Port due to strike by their crew;

(b) if so, the cause of the strike;

(c) the extent of damage of perishable cargo like vegetables on account of strike; and

(d) the action taken to end such flash strikes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The mooring crew of the Marine Department of Chennai Port Trust, resorted to sudden strike from the third shift (2200 Hrs.) of 30.8.98 demanding introduction of two long shifts posting of 12 hours each instead of 3 shifts of 8 hours and also to increase the manning strength prescribed for each vessel. The management could not agree to the unreasonable demand as it will have repercussion in other areas for the port and also in other Ports in the country.

(c) On account of strike, there was no damage of perishable cargo like vegetables at Chennai Port.

(d) The management tries to ensure smooth and cordial relations with the Workers through process of negotiations. Two Labour Trustees are appointed by Government as Trustees on the Board of Trustees of the Port Trusts. Provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 apply Labour. However, flash strikes by labour unions can not be ruled out.